Times-Virginian Editorials

CIVIC APATHY

We were impressed last week by an editorial under the above caption in The Farmville Herald. The Herald was commenting that only 20 voters showed up in that town at a mass meeting to nominate candidates for the Town Council. The Herald claims that Farmville has over 700 voters and that more than 20 might have taken interest in the running of their local government.

We concur in that sentiment, and we hasten to add that one of the major weaknesses in the Old Dominion is the small votes on election day. How can we brags of state's rights and local government, when only a handful take a part in the local levels of civic responsibility?

Wisconsin is a state of approximately the same population as Virginia. Last month over a MILLION voters cast ballots in a primary in that state. It is hard to conceive of a million Virginians voting. Recently, 6,100 voters turned out in the City of Lynchburg and that accomplishment was hailed as a record. Yet a vote of over 10,000 in Lynchburg would not have been anything to hail. Appomattox is known as a heavy voting county, yet we could cast twice as many ballots in the average election.

What is wrong at the grass roots level in Virginia? Are our election laws outmoded? Do our rules keep people from the ballot box? Is lack of interest caused by conceded victories for a dominant organization?

We do not know the answers. No doubt there is no obvious answer. Doubtless there are manly factors in such a situation. We are sure of one thing: Virginia's newspapers do their duty in pleading for large turn-outs on election day. The papers urge citizens to pay capitation taxes, to register and use their franchise. If "URGING" would do the trick, Virginia would have larger election figures. It could be that one thing we need is more candidates; more fearless men willing to take issues to the public. An election should not be won by default. The generally admitted fact that by and large Virginia DOES have good government, does not excuse civic apathy. This is a Presidential election year. There will be a fairly heavy vote in November. But remember: it is also important to have a heavy vote at EVERY election.

We conclude with the last paragraph from the Herald editorial:

"Good government begins at the 'grass-roots,'" and the type of government we have depends upon the interests and wisdom shown by the people who elect the officials. In this year of decision it is our duty as citizens to express our choice for the candidates at the voting polls. If in this we fail, our right to criticize is waived."

SOME WAYS IN WHICH WE CAN UNDERSTAND ASIA BETTER

(The Eastern Shore News)

To understand Asia better and the complex challenge confronting the United States in this area of the world where more than half of the human race lives, the Saturday Review of Literature suggests that all of us would do well to bear these points in mind when studying news from the far east:

1. Most people in Asia will go to bed hungry tonight.
2. Most people in Asia cannot read or write.
3. Most people in Asia have never seen a doctor.
4. Most people in Asia have never known civil liberties.
5. Most people in Asia have never heard of democracy.
6. Most people in Asia believe anything different would be better than what they have, and they are determined to get it.
7. Most people in Asia believe that freedom or free enterprise means the freedom of western colonial powers to exploit Asia.
8. Most people in Asia distrust people with white skins.
9. Most people in Asia are determined never again to be ruled by foreigners.

OUTLOOK BETTER FOR DEMOCRATIC VICTORY

There can be no denying that many people had determined that they would not support Mr. Truman were he the nominee for President in the November election. We are not at this time, undertaking to explain why that was so, but in a recent swing through nine states, we found marked anti-Truman sentiment.

This condition, generally accepted, led to the opinion that the Republican party would be favored to win its first victory since 1928, in this year's Presidential race.

Now, an entirely different light is being thrown on the election. The decision of Mr. Truman not to run, has suddenly brought new vigor into the Democratic party, and at the same time thrown the Republicans into uncertainty. With Truman out of the picture, the Democrats face the prospect of being able to iron out their differences and rally behind some one of the several likely candidates for the nomination. Not since 1936 has there been such an excellent chance for the Democrats to be united stoutly behind their nominee. This does not mean that everything is rosy within the party. But it does mean that the differences are not insurmountable.

Conversely, the Republicans are being more divided by the hour At this writing, it appears that the GOP is headed toward a bitter and costly fight between the Old Guard and the party's progressives. The Republicans are getting into shape to offer a united front in November and at this stage, there would seem to be reason for optimism among the Democrats for another victory.

Many things can and will happen between now and the nominating conventions. And many things can and will happen between the conventions and November. The point we desire to make is that the Democrats have a much better chance today than it seemed they had before Mr. Truman's announcement.

The thing for the Democrats to do is to heal differences so far as possible and keep the nation on an even keel, rectify mistakes of the past, and go before the voters with a positive program.

THE PEOPLE COULDN'T LOSE

(Charlottesville Daily Progress)

David Lawrence said yesterday on this page that Senator Richard B. Russell is the one Democrat who would have a chance of winning the Presidency if Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower is the Republican nominee.

Maybe.

It's a good deal clearer that Russell is the best presidential timber available to the Democrats that he would be the best vote-getter.

We whole-heartily agree, nevertheless, that his nomination would be a fine thing.

As a strictly non-political friend of ours remarked yesterday, it would be wonderful for the morale of the average voter to be faced, for a change, with the problem of choosing between two first class men instead of having to make up his mind which is the lesser of two evils.

Whether a Russell-Eisenhower contest would be a political horse race is a question we aren't prepared to answer in advance, but at least it would be the kind of race in which the people of this country couldn't lose.

OF CANDIDATES AND CABBAGES

(Milwaukee Journal)

Among the many political splits developing this election year, the most unfortunate and unnecessary, it seems to us, is that between the American Vegetarian Party and the American Vegetarian Union.

Both, according to the New York Times, are dedicated to turning the nation from meat eaters into vegetarians. Neither is large, and neither has much coin of the realm, but they match each other in enthusiasm and in supplies of lettuce, cabbage and rutabagas, which in slang parlance, could be considered their currency in lieu of folding money.

Gen. Herbert C. Holdridge, Vegetarian Party candidate for president, and Symon Gould, party candidate for vice-president, differ with the Vegetarian Union only insofar as they want to consider vegetarianism as something more than an ethical movement and give it "social dynamics." This they plan to do by going to the Democratic convention and allowing themselves to be nominated when the Democrats become deadlocked over a candidate.

The Vegetarian Union, however, is putting up a—you should pardon the word—"big beef." It claims that the Vegetarian Party has been implying that it has the support of the union, is not so, and the party is luring votes under false pretenses.

What makes this an unhappy situation to us has nothing to do with the politics of either group, and certainly nothing to do with their feeling that it is somehow indecent to eat a rare beefsteak. But in splitting, it seems to us, the two groups are destroying an opportunity to give America a convention that would have what no other convention has ever had.

That is a constituency well supplied with tomatoes, cabbages and assorted vegetables—and with candidates who admire vegetables so much that they'd consider it a tribute to be pelted with them during their acceptance speeches.

LOSING RACE FOR AIR DEFENSE

(Aviation Age)

Today the United States stands second in actual air power, with the disparity widening, if anything, in favor of our principal antagonist. Furthermore, our self-declared enemy may be pulling away from us in the great research and development race, key to air supremacy.

True, we have our stragic air command, second to none in initial striking power. But where are the reserves to sustain the sucession of Triphammer blows to the enemy's heart necessary to bring him down?

We have, also, all but completed our radar warning net, erected to stringer into action our interceptor defense against enemy air attack. But our fighter aircraft compare in view of their vastly greater responsibilities, with the heroic few which the royal air force threw into the battle of Britain.

Giraffe's eyes are so constructed that they can see to the rear without turning their heads.

"Mush," the Alaskan term, is a contraction of the French "marchons," meaning to go on.

A pig is the nearest relative to a hippopotamus.

Only at certain seasons is the hair of the ermine white.

TIMES-VIRGINIAN
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Yesteryears...

(Items reprinted from the files of The Times-Virginian)—

ONE YEAR AGO

(From our issue of April 19, 1951.)

H. A. Williams announces as a candidate for supervisor in Clover Hill District.

Miss Bolling Conner elected to Phi Beta Kappa at the College of William and Mary.

Miss Patsy Booth chosen president of honor council at Radford College.

Statements show a healthy gain in bank deposits here.

A. H. S. wins first league baseball game of season, defeating Altavista 3 to 2.

Results announced for the spring flower show of Appomattox Garden Club.

E. M. Drinkard dies at age of 80. Rites held for T. M. Martin, and Mrs. T. J. Ferguson.

TWO YEARS AGO

(From issue of April 20, 1950.)

Over 20,000 visitors jammed Appomattox April 16 for the Dedication of the McLean House. Robert E. Lee III and U. S. Grant II lead ceremonies. VMI and Marine Bands enliven occasion and Dr. Douglas S. Freedom gives principal address. A terrific traffic jam mars the event, as the crowd surpasses all expectations.

Pamplin to dedicate new baseball park April 23.

W. P. Odor, 56, dies at his home here.

THREE YEARS AGO

(From our issue April 21, 1949)

Cub Scouts put on waste paper collection.

Appomattox Green Sox play first exhibition game.

Garden Club announces an all-day workshop.

FOUR YEARS AGO

(From issue of April 15, 1948)

County tax rate is set at $2.15 per $100 valuation.

Series of health clinics are listed by County Health Department.

Pvt. Vernon Spence addresses local U. D. C. chapter.

Highway departments plans to relocate "cedar lane" road near the village of Vera.

FIVE YEARS AGO

(From issue of April 17, 1947)

Winter's snow removal in Appomattox county cost the highway department $4,700.

David Cyrus, Spout Spring, playing pro baseball at Albany, Ga.

Spring meeting of WMU group is set for April 20 at Liberty Baptist Church.

R. B. Hudgins, county agent, says that farm prices are at an all-time high level.

LIVESTOCK INCREASE NOTED IN 1950 CENSUS

A 69 percent increase in the value of livestock and livestock products over a five year period was one of the most outstanding facts noted in the 1950 livestock census for Virginia, say agricultural economists at VPI.

The economists explain that the figures include all livestock and livestock products other than milk, milk products, poultry and poultry products.

They note that:

In 1950, about half of the $77,308,426 worth of livestock and livestock products sold was made up of cattle receipts. Meat, lard, hides, and other miscellaneous products sold from animals butchered amounted to $693,040 on Virginia farms. There were 4,348 farms reporting a total of 5,004 head of cattle butchered, 2,735 farms reporting a total of 3,634 head of calves butchered, and 115, 029 farms reporting a total of 320,079 heads of hogs butchered.

The receipts from the sale of horses and mules sold alive amounted to $1,456,431. Horse and cattle on Virginia farms declined of 58 percent. Beef cows numbered about 30 percent less, as reported. The number of sheep was down to 1,268,127 head.

The number of hogs and pigs on the census showed a decrease of 5 percent since 1945. Milk cow numbers showed an increase of 5 percent, as do hogs and pigs. In comparing their relative importance, it is found that the number of lambs sold alive increased 6 percent of all production sold alive, except for a 5 percent; calves showed a 4 percent; hogs and pigs a 3 percent; and horses and mules alive, 0.5 percent.

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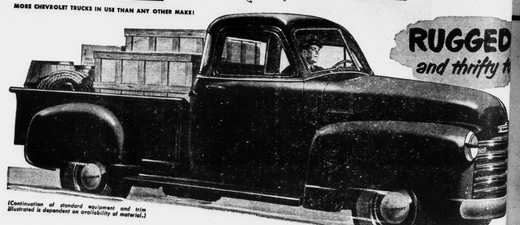

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A, April 14.- Well, Easter ...ry nice and with a large ...h church. All seemed to enjoy...day.

...visiting Mr and Mrs. L. ...son on Saturday night were ... Mrs. Grover Beasley, Doro... Hankins; Mr. and Mrs. ... ...ey, Mazie and Harriette.

...Harvey, from Blacksburg ...e week-end with his par...

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GREYHOUND

...ents, Mr. and Mrs. T. C. Harvey.

Cpl. Gerald M. Harvey, son of Mr. and Mrs. T. C. Harvey, who has been at Fort Lawton, Washington, sailed for Japan the 19th of March and landed the 3rd of April. Three thousand soldiers went over; 1,000 to Korea and 2,000 in Japan awaiting assignment.

Mrs. C. E. Lewis, Mrs. L. N. Watson, Mrs. T. C. Harvey and Mrs. Ida Morris attended the missionary meeting at Liberty Baptist Church on Wednesday. There was a large crowd and it was a fine meeting, so nicely entertained by the host church.

Mrs. J. P. Leitner entertained the New Hope W. M. U. at her home on Thursday night. There was a good crowd present and all enjoyed the meeting.

Mrs. Wesley Franklin has moved to Appomattox.

Charlie Harvey lost a fine cow this week. It got into the feed room and ate too much corn meal and oats.

Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Chernault had a shower for their son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Chernault. There was a large crowd present and lots of gifts.

Mr. and Mrs. T. C. Harvey and Mazie and Harriette visited in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Coleman Sunday night.

Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Harvey, of Lynchburg visited in the home of T. C. Harvey on Saturday.

Alease Covington visited her mother, Mrs. Sadie Covington for the week-end.

TO SURVEY LAKE

It is anticipated that fish biologists will be going into Lake Drummond, located in the Dismal Swamp, Nansemond and Norfolk Counties, to make a survey in the near future, according to Dr. Dean Rosebery, assistant chief of the fish division of the Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries.

Indications from fishermen at Lake Drummond point to the fact that the lake is full of large panfish, but there have been no bass caught in recent years. The purpose of the survey is to determine why there are no bass caught and what can be done to correct the situation.

Cleave means both to stick together and to part.

LIKELY CAUSE OF ABNORMAL FRUITING

If blackberries produce abnormal fruit, give DDT a trial before discarding the planting.

Extension specialists at VPI say berry growers in recent years have reported in some cases that plants bloom normally, but the berries that develop from them are either imperfect or fail to set altogether.

This trouble varies from season to season, and sometimes a large part of the crop may be affected.

New York research workers, after hearing these reports, thought that the tarnished plant bug might be responsible for this lack of fruit. They used DDT sprays on black berry plantings, with the exception of a few rows, just before bloom As a result, the trouble was almost completely eliminated on the sprayed plants, but the unsprayed plants had the usual number of imperfect berries.

Although it is not certain that the tarnished plant bug is the culprit blackberry growers who are not getting good crops should apply DDT at the rate of two ounces of the 50 per cent wettable powder to three gallons of water on the plants just before bloom. Do not apply after the flowers open, as the pollinating insects would be killed.

Gladstone

Gladstone, April 12.- Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Mitchell, of Walkers Ford were visitors of relatives and friends here this week.

Mrs. W. W. Rowles and son, of Tunstall have returned home after visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Peters.

The Rev. and Mrs. L. E. Dailey, of Tye River visited here a few days ago.

Mrs. R. W. McAlister and Mrs. F. R. Greaver have returned from Richmond, where they spent several days.

Mrs. C. W. McMurin and son, Carey W. McMurin are in Woodford, S. C. to spend Easter with Mrs. McMurin's daughter and her family, Mrs. G. R. Inabinet.

D. E. Walton and Calvin Harris, of Appomattox visited here with relatives Wednesday.

Elephants, alligators, turtles and poll parrots have an average life span of nearly 100 years.

Route One

The Susan Haar Home Demonstration Club met with Mrs. L. B. Hudson on Wednesday. The demonstration was given by Mrs. Will Chilton: Mantle arrangements of spring flowers were demonstrated by Miss Ava Chilton.

Mrs. Raymond Rosser is recuperating at the home of her mother, Mrs. J. P. Rector, after a five week's illness.

Warren Jones, U. S. A., spent Easter here with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Otey Jones.

The children of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Nash have been sick with measles.

Mrs. Shelby Tucker is ill at this writing.

Friends and relatives from Ohio have been visiting Mrs. Tommie O'Cull.

Bobbie Shupe spent Easter with Bill and Jerry Hudson.

Miss Ava Chilton visited her sister in Washington last week-end.

FERTILIZER CHEAPER IN 1951 THAN IN 1885

Anti-inflation note:

The Virginia Department of Agriculture has come up smiling with this news. A ton of mixed fertilizer was cheaper in 1951 than it was in 1885.

State Chemist Rodney C. Berry, who unearthed the figures from musty records, was engaging in no agricultural hocus-pocus.

A ton of 4-12-4 mixed fertilizer in 1885 cost about $2.50 more a ton than much better 4-12-4 fertilizer in 1951, and he can prove it.

"Back in those days," Berry explained, "the fertilizer manufacturer was a scavenger. He took the refuse from industry and made his product." Today, Berry said, the fertilizer manufacturer operates on a much higher plane.

SEN. BYRD CANDIDATE FOR ANOTHER TERM

Senator Harry F. Byrd has released the following statement:

"I have announced my candidacy for the office of United States Senator, subject to the Democratic Primary of July 15.

"For 35 years I have served the people of Virginia in elective offices—as a member of the City Council of Winchester, as State Senator, as Governor, and as United States Senator.

"I have always been profoundly grateful for the high honors paid me. I have represented Virginia in these offices to the best of my ability, and with the sole purpose of performing my official acts so as to contribute to the welfare of Virginia and the nation."

FOUNDER'S DAY AT LYNCHBURG COLLEGE

Lynchburg, Va., (Special) April 16.- Lynchburg College will hold its forty-ninth anniversary of the founding of the college Thursday, April 17 in Memoral Gymnasium, President Orville W. Wake has announced.

Speaker for the Founder's Day service will be John M. Turner, Jr., chairman of the Division of Language and Literature at the college. Topic for the address is "Building for Significance."

$14 BILLIONS LAST YEAR FARM INCOME TOTAL

Farmers in the United States had a total "net realized" income of $14,900,000,000 in 1951, a gain of 17 per cent above the postwar low of 1950, Charles F. Brannan, the Secretary of Agriculture told the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry recently.

In dollars, Brannan said, the 1951 total income was about $2,000,000,000 about 1950 and about $2,000,000,000 below the postwar high of 1947.

Meanwhile, he pointed out, prices paid by farmers for commodities and services used in family living and maintenance averaged 9 per cent higher last year than in the year before, offsetting about one-half of the increase in farmers' total income.

Net farm income last year was 8 per cent above that of 1950, but 23 per cent less than in 1947.

Commenting on the outlook for 1952, Brannan told the committee:

"Were we asked to summarize the farm outlook for the current year in one sentence it would be: Average prices received by farmers are not expected to differ greatly from those prevailing in 1951, while prices and cost rates paid by farmers are generally expected to run somewhat higher.

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It will last longer than any engine you've ever known. It will cost you less along the way. It will stay "young" in performance thousands of miles past the point where an ordinary engine shows old age.

And on top of all that, it makes driving a lot more pleasure! Its smooth response . . . its safety-power, in reserve for emergencies . . . its easy scorn for distance or hills . . . make you just plain *feel good* at the wheel as you've never felt before.

For the good of your purse and your pleasure too . . . we invite you to drive it, soon!

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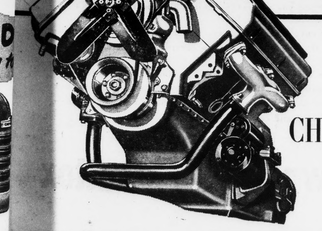

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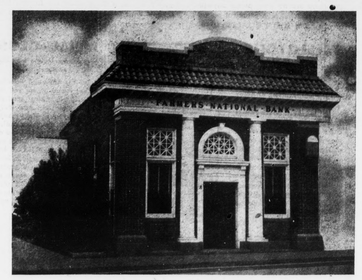
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